Ile not be made a ſoft and dull- ey'd foole,
To ſhake the head, relent, and ſigh, and yeeld
To Chriſtian interceſſors: follow not,
Ile haue no ſpeaking, I will haue my bond.

Exit Iew.

Sol. It is the moſt impenetrable curre
That euer kept with men.
Ant. Let him alone,
Ile follow him no more with bootleſſe prayers.
He ſeekes my life, his reaſon well I know:
I oft deliuer'd from his forfeitures
Many that haue at times made mone to mee,
Therefore he hates me.
Sal. I am ſure the Duke will neuer grant
This forfeyture to hold.
An. The Duke cannot deny the courſe of Law:
For the commodity that ſtrangers haue
With vs in Venice, if it be denied,
Will much impeach the iuſtice of his ſtate,
Since that the trade and profit of the City
Conſiſteth of all Nations. Therefore goe,
Theſe greefes and loſſes haue ſo bated me,
That I ſhall hardly ſpare a pound of fleſh
To morrow, to my bloody Creditor.
VVell Iaylor on, pray God *Baſſanio* come
To ſee me pay his debt, and then I care not. *Exeunt.*

Enter Portia, Nerriſſa, Lorenzo, Ieſſica, and a man of Portias.

Lor. Madam, although I ſpeake it in your preſence,
You haue a noble and a true conceite
Of God-like amity, which appeares moſt ſtrongly,
In bearing thus the abſence of your Lord.
But if you knew to whom you ſhew this honour,
How true a Gentleman you ſend releeſe,

How

How deere a louer of my Lord your husband,
I know you would be prouder of the worke,
Then cuſtomary bounty can enforce you.
Por. I neuer did repent for doing good,
Nor ſhall not now: for in companions
That do conuerſe and waſte the time together,
Whoſe ſoules do beare an equall yoke of loue,
There muſt be needs a like proportion
Of lineaments, of manners, and of ſpirit:
Which makes me thinke, that this *Anthonio*
(Being the boſome-louer of my Lord) it
Muſt needs be like my Lord. If it be ſo,
How little is the coſt I haue beſtowed
In purchaſing the ſemblance of my ſoule,
From out the ſtate of helliſh miſery.
This comes too neere the praiſing of my ſelfe,
Therefore no more of it: heere other things
Lorenzo I commit into your hands,
The husbandry and manage of my houſe,
Vntill my Lords returne. For mine owne part,
I haue toward heauen breath'd a ſecret vow,
To liue in prayer and contemplation,
Onely attended by *Nerriſſa* heere,
Vntill her husband, and my Lords returne.
There is a Monaſtery two miles off,
And there will we abide. I do deſire you,
Not to deny this impoſition,
The which my loue, and ſome neceſſity
Now layes vpon you.
Lor. Madame, with all my heart,
I ſhall obey you in all faire commands.
Por. My people do already know my mind,
And will acknowledge you and *Ieſſica*,
In place of Lord *Baſſanio* and my ſelfe.
And ſo farewell till we ſhall meete againe.
Lor. Faire thoughts & happy hours attend on you.